



**The University of Akron  
Minutes of Graduate Council  
November 19, 2018  
Student Union, Room 310**

Dean Chand Midha presided.

Present: Dr. Wondimu Ahmed, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Federico de Gregorio, Dr. Todd Gaffke, Dr. R. Ray Gehani, Dr. Gary Holliday, Dr. Carolyn Murrock, Dr. Alex Povitsky, Dr. Coleen Pugh, Dr. Martha Santos, Associate Dean Marnie Saunders, Dr. John Senko, Dr. Mark Soucek, and Dr. Claire Tessier.

GC Members Absent: Dr. Amanda Booher, Mr. Alec Gerrerd, Dr. Jina Sang, and Dr. Baffour Takyi

**Call to Order:** Dean Midha called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Heather Blake recorded the attendance of those present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Gaffke made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2018. Dr. de Gregorio seconded the motion. Minutes of the October 15, 2018 meeting were approved without dissent.

#### **1. Remarks – Dean Midha**

Dean Midha informed members of Graduate Council that the next cycle of program review will begin soon. It is not being referred to as academic program review. The program review committee will be co-chaired by Associate Dean Marnie Saunders and Dr. Joseph Wilder. Three Graduate Council members have been elected to serve on the program review committee. The Provost has asked the deans to forward the names of two faculty members from their colleges to serve on the committee. The program review committee will consist of ten members. Once the committee has been fully constituted a template for review will be distributed.

President Green has requested three-year action plans from all academic colleges and administrative units. These reviews were due last week. As of 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 16, some units had not submitted their three-year action plans. The President, Provost, and Chief Financial Officer will be reviewing plans. Units may be asked to make slight revisions. All three-year action plans will be made public on sharepoint and reviewed by the Faculty Senate. Dean Midha stated that there nothing further that can be cut in the Graduate School. Two of the Graduate School staff members who handle admissions and budget will be available to assist other units. He added that there have been changes in Institutional Research. There will be a search for a new director, and, because of that, two staff members have been reassigned for the next six months. One of these staff members has been reassigned to IT due to her strengths working with the dashboards created with the assistance of E&Y. Deans have been informed of these changes.

Dr. Ahmed asked if the positions in Institutional Research are being dissolved.

Dean Midha responded that changes are taking place, and they will be seeking a new director; however, positions are not being dissolved.

Dr. Gehani inquired about the dashboards that were created.

Dean Midha stated that there is approximately five or six dashboard currently in place. These dashboards provide information on graduate student funding and tuition waivers, areas in which we receive subsidy from the state and for what, enrollment, and admissions. The dashboards were created

with assistance from E&Y at a cost to the University. The CIO is in the process of migrating support for the dashboards in-house. This was discussed in Faculty Senate. These dashboards are currently accessible.

## 2. Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee – Dr. Ahmed presented a list of 29 proposals that were reviewed and approved by the committee at their meeting of November 6, 2018: A&S-CHLDFAMDEV-17-22153, BUS-FINAN-17-22892, CHP-COUNS-18-22971, CHP-COUNS-18-23464, CHP-COUNS-18-23465, CHP-COUNS-18-23507, CHP-NURIN-17-21863, CHP-NURIN-17-22280, CHP-NURIN-17-22386, CHP-NURIN-17-24700, CHP-NURIN-18-24701, CHP-NURIN-18-24702, CHP-NURIN-18-24703, CHP-NURIN-18-24739, CHP-NURIN-18-24774, CHP-NURIN-18-24775, CHP-SOCIAL-18-23758, CHP-SOCIAL-18-24024, CHP-SOCIAL-18-24793, CHP-SPLANG-18-24600, CHP-SPLANG-18-24601, CHP-SPLANG-18-24602, CHP-SPLANG-18-24603, CHP-SPLANG-18-24604, EDUC-CURR-18-23417, EDUC-EDFOUND-18-24102, EDUC-EDFOUND-18-24103, POLY-PENG-18-23215, and PROV-INTERCOL-18-23244. All proposals approved by Graduate Council.

Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – Dr. Holliday presented a list of 13 graduate faculty applications and one set of updated graduate faculty membership criteria from the Department of Philosophy that were reviewed and approved by the committee at their meeting of November 14, 2018. All applications and the revised criteria were approved by Graduate Council.

Shanon Donnelly	Amber Ferris	Diana R. Foreback	Alexander Hoover
Brooks Toliver	Sydney Chinchanchokchai	Alexa Fox	Jinjing Wang
Diana K. Brown	Richard Glotzer	Alex Meibos	Brian L. Davis
Jiahua Zhu			

Dr. Holliday stated that the committee was charged with looking at the number of years of equivalent experience one should have when applying for Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty status. The committee determined that departments should establish a minimum number of years of experience required for those applying for Ad Hoc Temporary graduate faculty status.

Dr. Gehani questioned how a book should be counted when applying for graduate faculty status.

Dean Midha responded that the department should determine how a book is counted.

Heather Blake shared that the Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty state that in appropriate disciplines scholarly books containing substantial original material by the author may be substituted for refereed publications.

Student Policy Committee – Dr. Soucek stated that the committee met on November 14, 2018 to review a request received from the College of Business Administration to allow students to petition for a waiver of the GMAT, GRE, or other standardized test if they have achieved three years of progressive work experience, showing both management and quantitative responsibilities, after completion of the bachelor's degree from an accredited university. The committee reviewed all material provide by the College of Business Administration and agreed that it was reasonable and in line with practices of other institutions.

Dr. de Gregorio said that the College of Business Administration is not getting rid of the entrance examination requirement. They are seeking to provide the option to applicants to request waiver of the GMAT should they have documented the minimum three years of progressive work experience. Applicants must show consistent management and quantitative experience. All requests will be reviewed by the graduate admissions committee.

Dr. Gehani stated that a number of leading institutions are providing a GMAT waiver option.

The request from the College of Business to provide a GMAT, GRE, or other standardized test waiver option for applicants was approved by Graduate Council.

### 3. New Business

Dr. Soucek mentioned that when the Student Policy Committee met he shared with them the situation surrounding the accelerated program in the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering and students' ability to get visas. He stated that previously students in the accelerated program were granted full admission, thus they were able to get visas. Now, if students are going to be admitted provisionally it will create a problem for them to get visas.

Dean Midha stated that he is aware this has been an issue. The Chinese students who are part of the accelerated program do not receive their baccalaureate degree until a year after they have taken graduate courses here. In order to be granted full admission a student must provide proof of a baccalaureate degree. At some point in the past these students were granted full admission without any proof of having earned the baccalaureate degree. Dean Midha had Associate Dean Saunders reach out to our CCGS colleagues to learn their policies for full admission.

Associate Dean Saunders shared that the University rule states that full admission may be given to any applicant who desires to pursue a graduate degree and has a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with an overall grade-point average of 2.75 or better, or 3.00 for the last two years, or holds an advanced degree from an accredited college or university in or appropriate to the intended field; or holds a baccalaureate or master's degree from a foreign college or university with first-class standing or its equivalent, plus satisfactory evidence of competence in English. Provisional admission may be granted to a person who has not met all of the requirements for full admission. Associate Dean Saunders said that responses received from other institutions indicate that a student must provide proof of baccalaureate degree conferral before enrolling in graduate courses.

Dr. Soucek inquired if other institutions were asked if they have similar programs.

Dean Midha advised that Associate Dean Saunders is working with the dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering to identify other institutions that have similar programs and gather information on how they are handling these students.

Dean Midha asked Dr. Chase if he could provide an update on research.

Dr. Chase responded that he is not prepared to give a presentation as he is currently working on this and discussing with the college deans.

Dean Midha stated that at the last Faculty Senate meeting there was no report provided from Graduate Council. Associate Dean Saunders will get in touch with Graduate Council's Faculty Senate representatives a week in advance of the Faculty Senate meetings to assist with preparing a report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Dr. R. Ray Gehani  
Secretary